

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of managing information related to at least one monitored device communicatively coupled to a network, comprising:
 - selecting a communication protocol among a plurality of communication protocols used to extract status information from the at least one monitored device;
 - retrieving, from a first memory, by a protocol object associated with the selected communication protocol, vendor and model information of the at least one monitored device;
 - obtaining, by the protocol object, a vendor name of a monitored device of the at least one monitored device supported by the selected communication protocol;
 - obtaining, by the protocol object, a model name corresponding to the obtained vendor name;
 - ~~concatenating~~ creating a descriptive string by using the obtained vendor name and the obtained model name to generate a descriptive string;
 - determining if the descriptive string is present in a vendor-model support map stored in a second memory, the vendor-model support map having at least one entry, wherein each entry includes a descriptive string and a vendor-model value; and
 - if the determining step determines that the descriptive string is not present in the vendor-model support map second memory, storing the descriptive string in the second memory vendor-model support map in association with the protocol object; and
 - repeating the selecting, retrieving, obtaining the vendor name, obtaining the model name, concatenating, determining, and storing steps for each protocol of the plurality of communication protocols to generate a vendor-model support map for each of the plurality of communication protocols.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the ~~creating~~ concatenating step comprises:

~~creating the descriptive string using~~ concatenating the vendor name, the corresponding model name, and a separator string to generate the descriptive string.

3-4. (Canceled)

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the selecting step comprises:
selecting the communication protocol among SNMP, HTTP, and FTP.

6-9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently Amended) A system for managing information related to at least one monitored device communicatively coupled to a network, comprising:

means for selecting a communication protocol among a plurality of communication protocols used to extract status information from the at least one monitored device;

a first memory storing at least one protocol object;

means for retrieving, from ~~[[a]]~~ the first memory, by a protocol object associated with the selected communication protocol, vendor and model information of the at least one monitored device;

means for obtaining, by the protocol object, a vendor name of a monitored device of the at least one monitored device supported by the selected communication protocol;

means for obtaining, by the protocol object, a model name corresponding to the obtained vendor name;

means for ~~creating a descriptive string using~~ concatenating the obtained vendor name and the obtained model name to generate a descriptive string;

means for determining if the descriptive string is present in a vendor-model support map stored in a second memory, the vendor-model support map having at least one entry, wherein each entry includes a descriptive string and a vendor-model value; [[and]]

means for storing the descriptive string in the ~~second memory~~ vendor-model support map stored in association with the protocol object, when the means for determining determines that the descriptive string is not present in the ~~second memory~~ vendor-model support map stored; and

means for causing the repeated execution of the means for selecting, retrieving, obtaining the vendor name, obtaining the model name, concatenating, determining, and storing, for each protocol of the plurality of communication protocols to generate a vendor-model support map for each of the plurality of communication protocols.

11. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 10, wherein the means for creating comprises:

means for ~~creating the descriptive string using~~ concatenating the vendor name, the corresponding model name, and a separator string to generate the descriptive string.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Original) The system of claim 10, wherein the means for selecting comprises:
means for selecting the communication protocol among SNMP, HTTP, and FTP.

14-17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently Amended) A non-transmissive computer ~~program-product having a computer-usable readable medium storing program instructions, which when executed by a computer, cause the computer to manage~~ for managing information related to at least one monitored device communicatively coupled to a network, the program comprising:

instructions for selecting a communication protocol among a plurality of communication protocols used to extract status information from the at least one monitored device;

instructions for retrieving, from a first memory, by a protocol object associated with the selected communication protocol, vendor and model information of the at least one monitored device;

instructions for obtaining, by the protocol object, a vendor name of a monitored device of the at least one monitored device supported by the selected communication protocol;

instructions for obtaining, by the protocol object, a model name corresponding to the obtained vendor name;

instructions for ~~creating a descriptive string using~~ concatenating the obtained vendor name and the obtained model name to generate a descriptive string;

instructions for determining if the descriptive string is present in a vendor-model support map stored in a second memory, the vendor-model support map having at least one entry, wherein each entry includes a descriptive string and a vendor-model value; [[and]]

instructions for storing the descriptive string in the ~~second memory~~ vendor-model support map stored in association with the protocol object, when the instructions for determining determine that the descriptive string is not present in the ~~second memory,~~ vendor-model support map stored; and

instructions for repeating the instructions for selecting, retrieving, obtaining the vendor name, obtaining the model name, concatenating, determining, and storing for each protocol of the plurality of communication protocols to generate a vendor-model support map for each of the plurality of communication protocols.

19. (Currently Amended) The computer ~~program-product~~ readable medium of claim 18, wherein the instructions for creating comprise:

instructions for ~~creating the descriptive string using~~ concatenating the vendor name, the corresponding model name, and a separator string to generate the descriptive string.

20-21. (Canceled)

22. (Currently Amended) The computer ~~program-product~~ readable medium of claim 18, wherein the instructions for selecting comprise:

instructions for selecting the communication protocol among SNMP, HTTP, and FTP.

23-26. (Canceled)

27. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein each protocol object includes a type of status information, a weight of the status information, and information for extracting the type of status information from the monitored device using the corresponding communication protocol.

28. (New) The method of claim 27, further comprising:

checking whether the weight of status information stored in the protocol object is greater than a corresponding weight associated with status information stored in the second memory.